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NPIC/TDS/D-1161-67
30 November 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Photographic Interpretation Center

THROUGH : Chief, Support Staff, NPIC

SUBJECT : NPIC Project [redacted] High Precision Stereo Comparator

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1. On 17 and 18 April 1967 [redacted] NPIC/SS Consultant [redacted] accompanied the Technical Development Staff monitor on a visit [redacted] in regard to the High Precision Stereo [redacted] Comparator as related to the vibration and environmental condition existing [redacted] Meetings were held with [redacted] Project Manager, [redacted] environmental control consultant; and [redacted] Sub-Contractor to [redacted] presented the then [redacted] currently available vibration information [redacted] obtained [redacted] in June 1960 and agreed to have additional vibration tests made in the proposed installation site. Based upon this information [redacted] recommended a vibration isolation system and [redacted] designed the main frame support for the comparator. Based upon this system the calculated weight estimate for the instrument was 22,000 lbs. The proposed one foot high vibration isolators allowed adequate overhead clearance in the proposed site.

2. On 31 October 1967 [redacted] visited NPIC and received a copy of the new vibration tests that were performed in the proposed site. The new tests indicated that vibrations [redacted] were more severe than originally reported in April 1967. This new information forced [redacted] to redesign the isolation mounts and main frame support. (This relates to drawings and calculations only). Preliminary indications are that it will increase the weight of the instrument 6000 lbs to approximately 28,000 lbs and increase the height of the instrument 1 foot.

3. [redacted] again visited [redacted] on 20 November 1967 to discuss site preparation plans for the Comparator. In a subsequent meeting at NPIC on 21 November 1967 [redacted] informed representatives from the Logistics Branch of the Support Staff, the Technical Development Staff, and the Technical Intelligence Division that many problems would result if the proposed instrument is to be installed in its intended site on the second floor [redacted]. The more significant problems mentioned are: [redacted]

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SUBJECT: NPIC Project

High Precision Stereo Comparator

a. The new estimated weight of the instrument (28,000 lbs) would be pushing the floor loading limit for the second floor.

b. The depth of the required reinforced flooring coupled with the increased height of the vibration isolation mounts (total of approximately 3 feet) makes the overhead clearance marginal.

c. The site preparation would take considerably longer--about 6 to 9 months to complete. Instead of just blocking off the work area from the rest of the clean room, Mr. Arey feels that the entire TID instrument clean room would have to be closed down during this period.

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4 [redacted] strongly recommended that a site be selected on the first floor [redacted] for this instrument and its attendant controlled environmental chamber [redacted] will submit a trip report and his recommendations to NPIC/SS on or about 27 November 1967.

5. This information is forwarded at this time for two reasons: (1) to alert you regarding the site problem, and (2) to inform you that the required redesign of the vibration mounts and main frame could (but probably will not) result in a cost overrun on this contract.

6. With regards to the first item, the site preparation, there currently only appear to be two alternatives--(1) to find an alternate site on the first floor (whether or not this is desirable is essentially between the Support Staff and TID); and (2) make an attempt at completely redesigning the instrument to fit the 2nd floor parameters. This option would most likely require TID's accepting some reduction in specifications, would decrease the probability of success and could prove expensive. TDS will continue to obtain data, look for other alternatives, and keep you informed.

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7. With respect to the second item, the present redesign will, of course, cost money but the contract is currently in an underrun status (i.e., they will return funds) therefore, while an overrun could result, it is not probable. [redacted] they can handle it within the contract but a Contractor's word is no real assurance. We have asked for it in writing. He may or may not be willing to commit himself to that extent.

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